GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1890
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Involvement of Forces for Cleaning Ganga
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to take assistance from territorial army and paramilitary forces for cleaning Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has already proposed or proposes to involve the local public residing among river banks including NCC scouts from schools and colleges in the cleaning up project of Ganga; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)
(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Raising of 4 Battalions of Composite Eco Task force named as Ganga Task Force has been approved in principle by Ministry of Defence vide letter dated 12th December 2014. Ganga Task Force has also been kept as an activity under Public Participation component in the Cabinet approval of Namami Gange program

The Ganga Task Force shall be responsible for i) plantation of trees in upper reaches and banks of Ganga, ii) strengthening of pollution monitoring mechanism on ground, iii) management of public awareness and participation programmes, and (iv) assistance in management of Ghats especially during major congregations . One regular battalion of Territorial Army has reported in Allahabad and training of the battalion for plantation, afforestation and preparatory activities are currently undergoing.

(c) & (d) The Government also proposes to involve the local public residing along the river banks, students from school, colleges and all people in Ganga cleaning up project. People may participate by contributing to Clean Ganga Fund. A component has been kept in the Cabinet approved Namami Gange programme for communication and public outreach activities. A memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between NMCG and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on June 2015 for utilizing the services of their volunteers in the Clean Ganga Project.
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